(d) if so, the status thereof and by when the review of progress of restructuring of UCBs would be completed; and

(e) whether the strong UCBs would be allowed new branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

New Pension Scheme

2198. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enforce the New Pension Scheme (NPS) through an executive order in view of the delay in getting the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill passed in Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A new restructured defined contribution pension system for new entrants to Central Government service, except to the Armed Forces, in the first stage, replacing the existing system of defined benefit pension, was notified on 22nd December, 2003. The new system was implemented with effect from 1st January 2004. Under the new system, the monthly contribution by the employee is 10% of the salary and DA. A matching contribution is given by the Central Government.

Slow progress of IT project

2199. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax Department's flagship IT project for a nationwide network to streamline data collection, compliance and surveillance has virtually come to a halt;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is almost 14 years after the project